

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FOLG MSG SENT OTTAWA BY AMCONSUL CALGARY ON DEC 22ND IS HEREBY
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

CALGARY 0612

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: OVIP, CA
SUBJ: VICE PRESIDENT VISIT TO ALBERTA

REF: BROH-KAHN/RATTRAY TELECON 12/21/77; OTTAWA 10300

1. THERE FOLLOWS THE SUPPLEMENTARY BACKGROUND INFORMATION
ON ALBERTA REQUESTED BY THE REFERENCED TELECON:

(A) ALBERTANS ARE PRAGMATIC, OPEN, AND PLAIN SPOKEN. THEY
TAKE PRIDE IN THEIR PIONEERING PAST AND STILL MAINTAIN THE
WESTERN TRADITIONS OF NEIGHBORLINESS AND HOSPITALITY. AT
THE SAME TIME THEY CHERISH THEIR TIES TO EUROPE AND THE
PROVINCE IS FILLED WITH GERMAN, UKRANIAN, SCANDINAVIAN,
FRENCH, DUTCH AND POLISH CLUBS AND SOCIETIES. WHILE ENGLISH
INFLUENCE IS CLEARLY THE DICTATING FORCE IN POLITICS AND
EDUCATION, CULTURAL DIVERSITY IS OTHERWISE ACTIVELY PROMOTED
BY THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT AND CULTURAL ASSIMILATION
PROCEEDS AT A SLOWER PACE THAN IN THE U.S. THE "WORK ETHIC"
IS STRONG AND ALBERTANS ARE AN INDUSTRIOUS, PRODUCTIVE AND
FORWARD LOOKING PEOPLE.

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(B) THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN DOMIN-
ATED BY A STRONG WILLED, FORCEFUL PERSONALITY WHO HAS
STRESSED THE CONVENTIONAL, CONSERVATIVE VIRTUES AND ATTITUDES
COMMON TO A RURAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY. CORRUPTION AND MAL-
FEASANCE IN GOVERNMENT ARE RARE AND VIOLATORS ARE STRINGENTLY
PROSECUTED AND PUNISHED. ALBERTANS ARE COMMUNITY MINDED

AND MIDDLE CLASS PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND CHARITABLE WORKS IS WIDE SPREAD. ALBERTA HAS A WELL DEVELOPED, PUBLICLY SUPPORTED SYSTEM OF HEALTH CARE, AND THE PROVINCE UNDERWRITES AN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE NEEDS OF A WIDE SPECTRUM OF SOCIETY.

(C) ALBERTANS ARE JUSTIFIABLY PROUD OF THE ECONOMIC GROWTH THAT THE PROVINCE HAS REALIZED SINCE WORLD WAR II. COMMENCING IN 1947, RAPIDLY INCREASING GAS AND OIL REVENUES HAVE PERMITTED ALBERTANS TO CREATE A DIVERSIFIED AND VIBRANT PROVINCIAL ECONOMY WHICH PRODUCES 11 PERCENT OF CANADA'S GNP. (SERVICES ACCOUNTED IN 1976 FOR 44 PERCENT OF ALBERTA GDP, OIL AND GAS FOR 16 PERCENT, TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES 10 PERCENT, MANUFACTURING 8 PERCENT, CONSTRUCTION 8 PERCENT, AGRICULTURE 7 PERCENT, AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES 6 PERCENT). THE PROVINCE CURRENTLY PRODUCES OVER ONE MILLION BARRELS OF OIL AND 7 BCF OF GAS A DAY, AND HEAVY OIL (BITUMEN) DEPOSITS OF 900 BILLION BARRELS AND 50 BILLION TONS OF RECOVERABLE COAL RESERVES SEEM TO ENSURE ALBERTA'S FUTURE AS A MAJOR ENERGY PRODUCER FOR DECADES TO COME. ALBERTANS RECOGNIZE THAT THEY SUPPLY MOST OF CANADA'S ENERGY REQUIREMENTS AND BELIEVE THAT THIS ENTITLES THEM TO A GREATER VOICE IN CANADA'S ECONOMIC DECISION MAKING PROCESS. WESTERN INTERESTS ARE, IN THE EYES OF ALBERTANS, CONTINUALLY SUBORDINATED TO THE CONCERNS OF EASTERN CANADA AND THE PROVINCE IS ACTIVELY PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF

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FINANCIAL AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS WHICH WILL LESSEN ALBERTA'S DEPENDENCE ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND EASTERN BUSINESS INTERESTS. ALBERTA'S EXPORTS TO THE U.S. IN 1977 AMOUNTED TO SOME U.S. DOLS 4.2 BILLION, OF WHICH OIL, GAS, PENTANES AND BUTANES ACCOUNTED FOR DOLS U.S. 2.8 BILLION. DIRECT IMPORTS FROM THE U.S. IN 1977 WERE AROUND DOLS 1.4 BILLION (THIS FIGURE IS SUBSTANTIALLY UNDERSTATED AS ALBERTA PURCHASES MANUFACTURED GOODS FROM EASTERN CANADA WHICH FREQUENTLY CONTAIN COMPONENTS IMPORTED FROM THE U.S.).

(D) ALBERTANS TAKE PRIDE IN THE PROVINCE'S GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY. ALBERTA IS THE SITE OF TWO OF NORTH AMERICA'S MOST SCENIC AND SPECTACULAR NATIONAL PARKS - BANFF AND JASPER, AND ALBERTANS FLOCK TO THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS IN DROVES TO CAMP, BACKPACK, AND SKI. THIS LOVE OF THE OUTDOORS IS A SHARED CHARACTERISTIC. THE TRADITIONAL WESTERN PASTIMES SUCH AS HUNTING AND FISHING ARE ALSO ACTIVELY PURSUED AND THE CALGARY STAMPEDE IS CONSIDERED HERE AS A MAJOR NORTH AMERICAN INSTITUTION. THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HAS CAREFULLY REGULATED DEVELOPMENT IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE ENVIRONMENT. GROWTH IS CONTROLLED AND CAREFULLY PHASED SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR AN ORDERLY AND EFFICIENT

UTILIZATION OF NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES. URBAN SPRAWL AND
INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION ARE ALSO EFFECTIVELY REGULATED.
ALBERTA PROVIDES AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF THE USE OF A
GOVERNMENT'S REGULATORY AUTHORITY TO ACHIEVE LONG TERM
SOCIALLY DESIRABLE OBJECTIVES.
RATTRAY. END QUOTE. ENDERS

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